

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A Vif antagonist that binds to the multimerization domain within a Vif protein in a cell and inhibits Vif protein multimerization, wherein said antagonist is a peptide selected from the group consisting of **SEQ. ID. NO: 5; SEQ. ID. NO: 6; SEQ. ID. NO: 7; SEQ. ID. NO: 8; SEQ. ID. NO: 9; SEQ. ID. NO: 10; SEQ. ID. NO: 12; SEQ. ID. NO: 13; SEQ. ID. NO: 14; SEQ. ID. NO: 15; SEQ. ID. NO: 16; SEQ. ID. NO: 17; SEQ. ID. NO: 18; SEQ. ID. NO: 19; SEQ. ID. NO: 20; SEQ. ID. NO: 21; SEQ. ID. NO: 22; and SEQ. ID. NO: 23.**
2. The Vif antagonist of claim 1, wherein the antagonist is **SEQ. ID. NO: 9.**
3. The Vif antagonist of claim 1, wherein the antagonist is **SEQ. ID. NO:13.**
4. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a Vif antagonist of claim 1.